

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group 1, claims 1, 3-29 and 45, drawn to a granulate.

Group 2, claim 2, drawn to method of producing granulate.

Group 3, claim 30, drawn to bulk material.

Group 4, claims 31-35, drawn to process for producing sintered glass granulate.

Group 5, claim 36, drawn to a method of producing construction material.

Group 6, claim 37, drawn to a method of producing construction material.

Group 7, claim 38, drawn to a method of producing loose feedstock.

Group 8, claim 39, draw to a method for treating an environmentally sensitive area.

Group 9, claim 40, directed to a method for treating an environmentally sensitive area.

Group 10, claim 41, directed to a method for purifying wastewater.

Group 11, claim 42, directed to a method to filter out floating particles or bind to dissolved toxins.

Group 12, claim 43, directed to a method of renovating water.

Group 13, claim 44, directed to a method of destroying or binding endocrine toxins in water.

The groups of inventions listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

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Groups 1-13 lack unity of invention because even though the inventions of these groups require the technical feature of fragments of a sintered body that are sintered from a crushed blow-molded glass, with a number of inclusions of at least one active substance on the broken surfaces of granulate, which active substance is embedded as a grain in the sintered body and can interact with the sintered body toxins upon contact with the toxins, this technical feature is not a special technical feature as it does not make a contribution over the prior art in view of DE 198 17 268 A cited in the international search report dated 9-15-04 and disclosed on page 9 of the instant specification.

This application also contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Two species of granulate structures including open cell foam, closed cell foam, and non-foamed structures;

Species of active substances including iron, stainless steel, activated carbon, zeolite, aluminum, magnesium, halogen compound of sodium, halogen compound of potassium, halogen compound of calcium, halogen compound of magnesium, halogen compound of iron, oxide compound of sodium, oxide compound of potassium, oxide compound of calcium, oxide compound of magnesium, oxide compound of iron, hydroxide compound of sodium, hydroxide compound of potassium, hydroxide compound of calcium, hydroxide compound of magnesium, hydroxide compound of iron, sulfate compound of sodium, sulfate compound of potassium, sulfate compound of calcium, sulfate compound of magnesium, sulfate compound of iron, carbonate compound of sodium, carbonate compound of potassium, carbonate compound of calcium, carbonate compound of magnesium, carbonate compound of iron, phosphate

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compound of sodium, phosphate compound of potassium, phosphate compound of calcium, phosphate compound of magnesium, phosphate compound of iron;

species of water soluble additives including magnesium oxide and magnesium hydroxide.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species of granulate structure, active substance, and water soluble additive to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew O Savage/
Primary Examiner
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